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West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry, Lumber Date I/31/41
Up & Down Mill and Sewing Machines.
Research Worker Samuel G. Smith Date Research Taken I/24, 25, 30/41
Typist S. G. Smith Date Typed I/31/41
Source James R. Ruckman Millpoint, W. Va. Date Filed _____
Maggie " " "
Early " " "
James Jordan Hillsboro, W. Va. ...



About 1850 John H Ruckman who had located on the river just above Robert at what is known today as the Beckley Pyle place built an Up and Down mill at the mouth of Stamping Creek getting his power from the creek. Michael Scates and Jake Simmons helped on the mill and also helped cut logs up the river and raft them down to the mouth of the creek, these were mostly pine.

Shortly after Ruckman started operation a man by the name of James L.A Gibbs drifted in to that section and worked with Ruckman and were known as Gibbs & Ruckman and it was here that Gibbs invented the single stitch Sewing Machine using lumber sawed on this mill in the making of his machines, but when Gibbs obtained a patent on the machine Ruckmans name was not mentioned (James Jordan who is near 90 years of age has one of these machines in his possession today) they operated here till about 61 or 62 and due to the condition the war had brought on were unable to sell their machines or run the mill so Ruckman sold out to Samuel Auldridge and moved to Georgia and Gibbs went over about Staunton, Auldridge operated the mill for a while and sold out to William Clendenen who was a cabinet maker and used most of his lumber in cabinet and furniture making that he sawed on this mill.

This mill operated until about 1870 to 75 and was profitable to all who run it as they found a ready sale locally for the rough boards and what went in the Sewing machines and furniture also found a ready sale as this was one of Pocahontas Countys first industries.

Information-James H Ruckman Millpoint. W. Va.

Early Ruckman.

" "

Regele Ruckman.

" "

James Jordan.

Hillsboro. "

Commerce and Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

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Shortly after Ruckman started operation a man by the name of James L. A Gibbs drifted in to that section and worked with Ruckman and were known as Gibbs & Ruckman and it was here that Gibbs invented the single stitch Sewing Machine using lumber saved on this mill in the making of his machines, but when Gibbs obtained a patent on the machine Ruckmans name was not mentioned (James Jordan who is near 90 years of age has one of these machines in his possession today) they operated here till about 61 or 62 and due to the condition the war had brought on were unable to sell their machines or run the mill so Ruckman sold out to Samuel Auldridge and moved to Georgia and Gibbs went over about Staunton, Auldridge operated the mill for a while and sold out to William Glenderson who was a cabinet maker and used most of his lumber in cabinet and furniture making that he saved on this mill.

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Hillsboro, W. Va.

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Hillsboro, W. Va.

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Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.,
Lumber-Up And Down Mill.

About 1875 Jacob McNeel of near Hillsboro who owned land on Stamp-
ing Creek had an Up And Down mill built on the head of Stamping Creek near
where W.P. Derafield now lives.

They logged this mill with 3 yoke of cattle and a team of horses,
Henry Rose drove a team and assisted on the mill he lived on Stamping Creek
Granville McNeel did the sawing he was a son of Jacob, and it was on this
mill that the lumber was sawed that built the Jacob McNeel house and better
known as the Alex McNeel house also the lumber that was used in the Method-
ist Parsonage at Hillsboro was sawed by Granville McNeel on this mill right
after this operation Granville went West and settled there.

Information. O.A. McNeel Hillsboro. W. Va.

James Jordan. " "

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
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Date 1/24/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 1/22, 23, /41

Typist Samuel G Smith

Date Typed 1/23/41

Source Edgar L Smith. Watoga. W. Va.
Marvin G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va.
James R Huckman. Millpoint. W. Va.

Date Filed _____

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James R Huckman. Millpoint. W. Va.

Date Filed _____

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

Lumber-Up & Down Mill-

Feb/41
James Smith having sold out at Millpoint and located at the mouth of Stephens Hole Run near where the run empties in the Greenbrier River and it was here that James Smith with the assistance of his sons William, Isaac and Joseph, and Jacob built an Up & Down sawmill at this location about 1856 they put in a waterwheel in Stephens Hole Run this furnished their power to run the mill and just above the mill they had a tanyard they worked at when they were not sawing.

It was on this mill that the lumber was sawed that built the Isaac Smith house also the lumber that built the gristmill was sawed on this Up & Down mill, the logs coming from the North along Stephens Hole Run, they were mostly Hemlock and White Pine and from this same section and on this mill lumber was sawed and delivered to the Levels to the many farmers to erect houses and barns as the Little Levels was building up fast at that time and they were in need of lumber so so they found a ready market for all they could saw, but as a grist mill was badly needed in this section they decided to tear down the Up & Down mill and erect a grist mill which they did and it was in operation for many years, and today this is an old landmark in the Little Levels District of which the writer is proud as James was the Great grandfather Joseph my Grandfather and Isaac and William great uncles of Samuel Glenn Smith this writer.)) these old gentlemen were pioneers in their profession milling and tanning.

Information. Edgar L Smith. Watoga. W. Va. (son of Isaac)

Marvin C Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. (son of Joseph)

James R Ruckman. Millpoint. W. V. a.

Concrete And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

Lumber-Up & Down Mill-

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Typist Samuel G Smith

Date Typed 1/24/41

See James Jordan Hillsboro W.Va.
John Jordan.

Date Filed

James H Rackman Millpoint.



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RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Coopers & Lybrand-Lumber

Date 1/24/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 1/22,23/41

Typist Samuel G Smith

Date Typed 1/24/41

See James Jordan, Hillsboro, W. Va.
John Jordan.

Date Filed

James R Rackman, Millpoint.



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Maggie " " "
Early " " "
James Jordan Hillsboro, W. Va.

